

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A PDA attachable device comprising:

- 5 (a) magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means;
 (b) electrical power transfer means, whereby said PDA attachable device solely derives its electrical power for said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means from the cradle interface signals supplied by the PDA; and
 10 (c) power management means, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means.

2. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said power
 15 management means includes using encoded data on the read magnetic stripe to initiate the powering up and read operations of said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means.

3. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said power
 20 management means includes the initiation of an automatic startup of the PDA during a card swipe accomplished by imitating the PDA's hot sync operation.

4. The PDA attachable device according to claim 3, wherein said automatic
 startup of the PDA during a card swipe is accomplished by replacing the PDA's hot sync
 25 driver with a driver that differentiates between a hot sync and said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means, and thereby said driver sets the PDA to operate accordingly.

5. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes a removable memory module for data logging in data applications where the PDA does not support non-volatile memory.

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6. The PDA attachable device according to claim 5, wherein said removeable memory module includes a memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA.

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7. The PDA attachable device according to claim 6, wherein said memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA is used for age verification whereby when states having the age and physical attributes in varying formats the output can be standardized for the PDA age verification application.

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8. The PDA attachable device according to claim 6, wherein said memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA further includes the ability to limit or prevent sensitive data from being sent to the PDA.

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9. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes a removable processor module for field installable application software such as for age verification applications.

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10. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes a magnetic stripe reader attachable to a PDA with the capability to verify the authenticity of the magnetic stripe data before sending the data to the PDA.

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11. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes a magnetic stripe reader attached to a PDA with the capability to encode the sensitive magnetic stripe data before sending the data to the PDA thereby allowing sensitive information such as credit
10 card numbers to be forwarded to the processing agency without being available to the PDA operator.

12. The PDA attachable device according to claim 11, further includes the ability to encode the transmitted data with a security signature derived from the card data.

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13. The PDA attachable device according to claim 1, further including a wireless PIN pad for the purpose of facilitating applications requiring the customer entry of a personal identification number, and allowing a customer to enter a personal identification number to complete a transaction.

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14. A method for making a PDA attachable device, including the steps of:

(a) providing magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means;

(b) providing electrical power transfer means, whereby said PDA attachable
25 device solely derives its electrical power for said operational means from the cradle interface signals supplied by the PDA;

(c) providing power management means, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA supplied electrical power

enabling greater operational times for said operational means;

(d) providing attachment means for the purpose of firmly securing said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means to the PDA; and

(e) providing a hot sync connection cradle to enable electrical communication
5 between said PDA attachable device and the PDA connected thereto.

15. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data
10 reading and writing operational means having a removable memory module for data
logging in data applications where the PDA does not support non-volatile memory.

16. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 15,
wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
15 operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data
reading and writing operational means having a removable memory module wherein said
removeable memory module includes a memory module capable of storing multiple data
format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a
standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA.

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17. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 15,
wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data
reading and writing operational means having a memory module wherein said memory
25 module is capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied
magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or
outputting to a PDA further includes the ability to limit or prevent sensitive data from
being sent to the PDA.

18. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
 wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
 operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data
 reading and writing operational means having a removable processor module for field
 5 installable application software, such as for age verification applications

19. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
 wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
 operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe reader attachable to a
 10 PDA with the capability to verify the authenticity of the magnetic stripe data before
 sending the data to the PDA.

20. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
 wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
 15 operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe reader attached to a
 PDA with the capability to encode the sensitive magnetic stripe data before sending the
 data to the PDA thereby allowing sensitive information such as credit card numbers to be
 forwarded to the processing agency without being available to the PDA operator.

20 21. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
 wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing
 operational means further includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe reader attached
 to a PDA with the ability to encode the transmitted data with a security signature derived
 from the card data.

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22. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14,
 further including the step of providing a wireless PIN pad for the purpose of facilitating
 applications requiring the customer entry of a personal identification number, and

allowing a customer to enter a personal identification number to complete a transaction.

23. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing power management means, whereby said PDA attachable
5 device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said operational means includes the step of providing said power management means having the capability of using encoded data on the read magnetic stripe to initiate the powering up and read operations of said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means.

24. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 23, wherein said step of providing power management means, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said operational means includes the initiation of an
15 automatic startup of the PDA during a card swipe accomplished by imitating the PDA's hot sync operation.

25. The method for making a PDA attachable device according to claim 24, wherein said automatic startup of the PDA during a card swipe is accomplished by
20 replacing the PDA's hot sync driver with a driver that differentiates between a hot sync and said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means, and thereby said driver sets the PDA to operate accordingly.